

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, lines 4-6, please cancel the original paragraph and substitute the amended paragraph as set forth below.

Continuation-in-part of application Ser. No. 09/675,570, filed Sept. 29, 2000, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,862,354, from which domestic priority is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. §120, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Page 2, last paragraph bridging to page 3, please substitute the following paragraph:

Block ciphers such as the Data Encryption Standard (DES) are popularly used for encryption of computer communications. However, empirical evidence indicates that stream ciphers are faster than block ciphers at equivalent security levels. For example, in practical evaluation, the stream ciphers RC4 and SEAL have been determined to be significantly faster than any secure block cipher when implemented on general-purpose computer processors. Further, ~~and~~ RC4 and SEAL have survived years of scrutiny by cryptanalysts. SEAL is described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,454,039; U.S. Pat. No. 5,675,652; U.S. Pat. No. 5,835,597; Rogaway, P. and Coppersmith, D., "A Software-Optimized Encryption Algorithm", Proceedings of the 1994 Fast Software Encryption Workshop, Lecture Notes In Computer Science, Volume 809, Springer-Verlag, 1994, pp. 56-63; Rogaway, P. and Coppersmith, D., "A Software-Optimized Encryption Algorithm", Journal of Cryptology, Volume 11, Number 4, Springer-Verlag, 1998, Pages 273-287, and at <http://www.cs.ucdavis.edu/~rogaway/papers/> in the file named "seal-abstract.html" in the folder "[~rogaway/papers/](http://www.cs.ucdavis.edu/~rogaway/papers/)" of the domain "[cs.ucdavis.edu](http://www.cs.ucdavis.edu/)" on the World Wide Web (www). Both SEAL and RC4 are discussed in Schneier.